

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
TRANSITION AGE YOUTH (TAY) DIVISION

## INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS (ILP)

### Overview

The TAY Division has the responsibility of oversight for three Independent Living Programs located in Service Areas 2, 3 and 6. They are Transitional Housing Programs (THP) and service TAY between the ages of 18-21, who have been in foster care in either the Dependency system or the Delinquency system and have subsequently emancipated and had their Court jurisdiction terminated. Step-Out (A Community of Friends), Jump Start (Hillview) and Athena (Homes for Life Foundation) are programs which provide housing and supportive services to seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) young adults who are exiting Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or Probation foster care. These youth are at risk of becoming homeless. The primary goal of the THP is to assist these high-risk young adults in obtaining and remaining in secure housing, increasing their living skills and income levels, achieving greater independence through self-sufficiency, and readiness for permanent housing upon completion of the transitional housing program. Notwithstanding special circumstances, the maximum stay in the program is 18 months or the date of the young adult's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, whichever comes first.

### Population Served

Each THP ensures that the eligibility requirements are met. Specifically, eligible clients are young adults referred by DCFS and Probation who have a Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV Text Revision (DSM IV-TR) Axis I and/or Axis II diagnosis evidencing impairment in the ability to function in at least one of the following domains: school, work community, family life, and interpersonal relationships.

### Supportive Services

The THP provides services either directly or in collaboration with other Community-based organizations, including the following services:

- Mental Health Services
- Co-Occurring Substance Abuse Treatment Services
- Basic Living Skills (e.g. money management, household budgeting, mobility training, self-care, housekeeping, cooking classes, etc.)
- Vocational Training and Job Placement
- Educational Guidance
- Social and Recreational Activities